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The Honorable Maureen O'Connor
202 "C" Street
San Diego, California 92101

Dear Maureen,

I am writing to urge your support for the Human Dignity Ordinance which will soon come before the City Council. As a long-time supporter of civil rights, I have personally been aware of numerous cases of men and women who live in fear of loss of their homes and/or jobs if their sexual preference were known. For obvious reasons, it is very difficult to get these people to come forward and document the painful discrimination that they experience on a daily basis.

Anti-gay/lesbian discrimination does exist throughout our city. Yet San Diego is the largest municipality in California that does not provide protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The lesbian/gay citizens of San Diego are not asking for special privilege — but rather a guarantee of rights taken for granted by other minorities.

The Human Dignity Ordinance would not impose quotas, goals, or affirmative action programs. It would not endorse, encourage, or approve of any particular lifestyle. It would not prohibit bona fide dress codes or standards of conduct which are uniformly applied to all citizens. Further, this ordinance would not have any significant fiscal impact on the City.

For all of these reasons, it seems clear that the Human Dignity Ordinance can do no harm, but has the potential to move the City of San Diego one step closer to the goal of equal protection for all of its citizens. Many thanks for your consideration.

Yours in the struggle,

Jess Jessop

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